

**Remarks at Jinnah's Mausoleum
December 10, 2012, 9:45 a.m.**

Asalamu Alaikum!

It is an honor to be here and pay my respects at the final resting place of the father of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He had a vision of a unified, democratic Pakistan, one filled with equality, fraternity, and social and economic justice. These ideals gave rise to Pakistan's creation, and they reflect values that we all hold dear.

In August 1947, Jinnah said, "Our object should be peace within, and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial friendly relations with our immediate neighbors and with the world at large."

These words reflect the common aspirations that Pakistanis and Americans still have - to live in peace and security, and to pursue economic opportunity. Our countries are united in many ways – through our families, business ties, and common interests. And we are growing our people-to-people ties through educational, cultural and other exchanges.

Like Pakistan, the United States was also founded on a belief held by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, that freedom of religion is important to a nation's growth and development. During the founding of Pakistan, he said, "Minorities, to whichever community they may belong . . . will have their protection with regard to their religion, faith, their life, their culture. They will be, in all respects, the citizens of Pakistan."

This visit offers me the opportunity to reflect on the principles upon which Pakistan was founded. As an American, I see these same principles reflected in the journey and evolution of my own nation. Our two countries share common values, and we must continue to deepen our relationship and work to overcome common challenges.

I would also like to note that today is International Human Rights day, which is also the last of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. The 16 Days campaign is designed to raise awareness about gender-based violence. People all around the world, including in Pakistan, are participating in this campaign.

My boss, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has said, gender-based violence is a global pandemic that cuts across all borders and affects all peoples and societies – regardless of ethnicity, race, socio-economic status, or religion.

One in three women around the world will experience some form of gender-based violence in her lifetime. Ending that kind of violence is another value that we share.

Jinnah himself said that, “I have always maintained that no nation can ever be worthy of its existence that cannot take its women along with the men. No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men.”

As I offer my respects to the founder of your nation, know that the United States is working together with the people and government of Pakistan to build a brighter future for every Pakistani.

Thank You.